

New vice-county records of microlepidoptera

I recommend recorders to consult me before claiming that a species is new to their county. I hold distribution maps for all our British Microlepidoptera. These are as complete as I can make them, though no doubt there are some records that have not come to my notice.

New records are frequently claimed incorrectly. For example, in the March-April issue of this journal (*antea*: 74), four records from the Isle of Wight were alleged to be new, but for two of them that was not the case. *Niditinea fuscella* (L.) and *Elachista luticomella* Zell. have both been recorded before and this is shown by dots on the distribution maps in *The Moths and Butterflies of Great Britain and Ireland* Volumes 2 and 3 respectively. The maps in question were prepared in the first instance by the late E.C. Pelham-Clinton and are now in my possession. In each case he used the symbol he reserved for records where he had seen a specimen and confirmed the determination. Unfortunately I do not hold his sources, but they are probably available amongst his papers at the National Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh. The other two species claimed, *Blastobasis decolorella* (Wollaston) and *Cydia servillana* (Duponchel) are indeed new to the Isle of Wight.

May I ask recorders to send me a list of species they think may be new, as several do already, so that I can keep my maps complete and up to date. There is only one species of microlepidoptera that has been reported from all 113 vice-counties in Britain and all 40 in Ireland. Can you guess which it is?— A.M. EMMET, Labrey Cottage, 14 Victoria Gardens, Saffron Walden, Essex CB11 3AF.

Euzophera bigella Zell. (Lep.: Pyralidae) new to Devon.

On 6 September 1999 I purchased two pomegranates *Punica granatum* from a local greengrocer in Teignmouth; one of these was stuffed full of frass and silk in the hollow left by the flower whilst other had a smaller amount of silk and frass. After five specimens of *Cryptoblabes gnidiella* (Mill.) had emerged I noticed, in the fruit that had most frass, holes going down through the rind with larvae about a quarter to three eighths of an inch long (6-9mm) which disappeared down these holes when disturbed; there were three of these grey, almost colourless larvae. Two of these pupated (one spun up on the edge of the rind and the other left the fruit and spun up in the tissue in the container), though the third continued feeding. Two *Euzophera bigella* emerged on 3 and 8 October 1999 but, although I looked for it very carefully, the third larva could not be found.

This species normally prefers peaches *Prunus persica* (Goater, 1986. *British Pyralid Moths*: Harley books) and, as far as I know, this is the first time this species has been found in pomegranates. The larvae burrow through the rind to the fruit seeds inside, but do not seem to affect the edible parts, leaving no frass in this area. These examples of *E. bigella* are evidently the fourth and fifth British examples and are new for Devon.— ROY MCCORMICK, 36 Paradise Road, Teignmouth, Devon TQ14 8NR.